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Sen. Cropsey's legislation keeping violent video games from minors signed into law

LANSING – Parents have more protection against violent and sexually explicit video games getting into the hands of their children now that the governor signed Sen. Alan Cropsey's legislation that would prevent the sale of such games to children.

Cropsey sponsored Senate Bill 416, now Public Act 108, which makes it a crime to sell ultra-violent games to children. A related bill would deal with sexually explicit games. Both bills passed the Legislature overwhelmingly.

"Most parents would be shocked to see what some video games have players do," Cropsey said. "We've listened to concerned parents and made these games available only to adults. Already we've seen too many instances of kids acting like characters in the games and harming others."

This year, undercover investigations conducted by county sheriffs found that children as young as nine years old were able to purchase video games rated for adults only at many of the stores investigated.

Violent video games have been linked to violent or criminal behavior in young people. Many studies have shown that violent or aggressive behavior can be caused by playing games that graphically depict violence. In one case in Ingham County last year, two boys caused a crash that killed a father and his young son. The boys had been driving recklessly and were trying to imitate the violent game Grand Theft Auto, in which players kill pedestrians and other drivers.

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